

NATURE CENTER

Activities are held at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 240-314-8770. **Registration is required.** There are no registration deadlines unless otherwise noted and you may register for programs up until the day of the event. Programs may be conducted indoors or outside. Please remember to dress for the weather. Note: For children's programs, the fee is just for the participating children. For programs that are for all ages (i.e., families) the fee is per person, including adults.

Beaks, Beaks, Beaks!

Who has a beak? Are all beaks the same? Do all birds have beaks? Why do some insects, some seeds and some fish have beaks? Are beaks and bills the same thing? You'll learn all of this and more as we take a hike, make a craft and study birds, ducks, platypus and turtles.

#9515 Thu Mar 25 10 am-11 am
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC

#9516 Thu Mar 25 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC



Big Cats

The big cats of the world are endangered due to loss of habitat, hunting and myths. Explore the beauty, power and adaptations of these overgrown housecats through activities and a video.

#9761 Fri Feb 27 4 pm-5 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 4+ Site: CCNC

Bird Walk for Beginners

Winter is the perfect time to learn the basics of birding. Sample some bird-friendly coffee while learning what to look for when identifying birds. Afterwards we will walk the trails and discover which birds are wintering in our area. Note: Bring binoculars and wear good walking shoes.

#9427 Fri Jan 9 7 am-9 am
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 16+ Site: CCNC

Build a Bird Feeder

Winter is a good time to put bird feeders out and start learning to bird watch. We'll make a couple of different bird feeders and take a hike to learn which birds stick around through winter.

#9511 Sat Jan 10 11 am-12 noon
\$4(R)/\$5(N) Ages: 4-12 Site: CCNC

Carion Delight

What is black all over, bald and likes to eat dead stuff? VULTURES! They soar high in the sky looking (or smelling) for dead stuff. They are nature's garbage disposals. We'll learn what they eat and why, how they find it, and why they like throwing up so much! We'll also hike and make a craft.

#9514 Thu Feb 19 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC



Critters in Disguise

Animals find different ways to protect themselves from predators and people. We'll learn how animals go unnoticed in the forests, wetlands, meadows and desert. We'll take a hike looking for critters hiding from us and we'll make a craft.

#9517 Thu Mar 4 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC

Endangered Species: Recovery & Demise

The Endangered Species Act has had its successes and its failures. We'll discuss which animals have benefited from the ESA and which ones continue to get tangled up in politics, greed and misunderstanding. Is it time to say goodbye to some of these irreplaceable animals, such as, the Spotted Owl, Red Wolf or the Kirtland's Warbler, or do we continue to fight, even if it seems to be an idle one? We'll have an open discussion after the program so you can share your point of view. Refreshments will be served.

#9520 Fri Feb 20 7 pm-8:30 pm
\$4(R)/\$5(N) Ages: 16+ Site: CCNC

Groundhog Day Celebration

Punxatawney Phil has nothing on Croydon Creek! Celebrate the most famous animal forecaster with games, crafts and more. Will Glenview Glen? Croydon Ken? Rockville Rick? See his shadow? Come and find out!

#9429 Sun Feb 1 2 pm-4 pm
No fees All Ages Site: CCNC

Penguins, Puffins and Phun

One can swim, one can fly but they both love to eat fish and wear black and white. We'll waddle like penguins as we learn about these fascinating birds through activities, a video and a craft.

#9734 Tue Feb 24 10 am-11 am
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC

Possum Magic - Australia Day

Explore pouched mammals and other unique animals from Down Under through the story of Hush, the invisible possum. Taste a yummy Australian treat and make your own marsupial pouch for trinkets.

#9762 Tue Jan 6 10 am-11 am
\$4(R)/\$5(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC

#9763 Tue Jan 6 4 pm-5 pm
\$4(R)/\$5(N) Ages: 6-10 Site: CCNC

NATURE PROGRAMS

WINTER 2003/2004

Profusion of Peepers

Believe it or not, frogs are singing in winter. Meet our first spring harbinger on a walk to a wetland. This little 1/4 inch frog may be small but he sure is loud! Peepers can be heard as much as a mile away. Note: Be prepared to walk about one mile.

#9430 Thu Feb 26 5 pm-6:30 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 7 + Site: CCNC

Shake, Rattle & Roll - Rattlesnakes

Often feared, rattlesnakes and other venomous snakes are dormant underground in the winter. Does Maryland have many species of venomous snakes? Are they beneficial? Have they earned their fearsome reputation? Meet some of our live, non-venomous snakes, and learn how to tell a venomous from a non-venomous snake. We'll end by making your own rattlesnake to take home.

#9465 Fri Jan 23 7 pm-8 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 5 + Site: CCNC

Spotted Salamander Hike

All year long this native large amphibian spends its life about 3 feet underground and is very rarely seen. Only at this time of year do they emerge by the hundreds to lay their eggs in vernal pools. Then they return to their solitary, elusive life until next year. Come experience this unusual annual migration.

#9431 Thu Mar 18 7 pm-8:30 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 7 + Site: CCNC

Stump the Naturalist - Skulls

Ever pick up a skull in the woods and can't figure out what animal it is? Bring it in and see if we can figure it out! Look for this new series every season - with a new topic each time to see if you can stump us!

#9764 Sat Jan 3 1 pm-3 pm
No fees All Ages Site: CCNC

Winter Beach Walk

*NLN seeking other *NLN's to share a peaceful winter day walking the beaches in search of things lost and forgotten. *NLN's enjoy nature hikes, birding, reading, movies, and long walks along the beach. We'll head out of town in search of treasures left behind by the winter storms. We'll also get a chance to observe wintering birds and then retreat to a bonfire for a taste of Maryland and S'mores. Note: Wear appropriate clothing, bring a change of clothes, just in case, binoculars and a snack. *NLN = Nature Loving Nerds

#9522 Sat Feb 14 12 noon-7 pm
\$20(R)/\$25(N) Ages: 18 + Site: CCNC

**For more fantastic trips,
see pages 34-35.**

Winter Bird Trip

We'll take a trip around the area in hopes of glimpsing some of the more rare wintering birds. Hopes will be high in catching Northern Shrikes, Short-Eared Owls and Snowy Owls. Destinations will be determined closer to the date of the trip to ensure the highest probability of sightings. Note: Bring a pair of binoculars and a bag lunch.

#9521 Mon Jan 19 7 am-3 pm
\$10(R)/\$12(N) Ages: 18 + Site: CCNC

Winter Weather

Why does it get so cold in winter? Where does snow come from? What is the difference between a snowstorm and a blizzard? We'll answer all of these questions and more through investigative work and science experiments.

#9512 Tue Jan 27 2:15 pm-3:15 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 7-11 Site: CCNC

#9513 Thu Jan 29 1 pm-2 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC

Wye Island & the Elusive Fox Squirrel

The endangered Delmarva fox squirrel has eluded one of our naturalists for fifteen years. Will this be the trip that ends the dry slump? Take a van trip to Wye Island Natural Resource Management Area. Wye Island is a great place to view this ground animal because the trees have yet to leaf out. After spending the morning at Wye Island, choose either to eat lunch and shop in nearby St. Michael's or stay at Wye Island and search for bald eagles and waterfowl. Cross your fingers and be a part of the search for the elusive fox squirrel. Bring binoculars, a bag lunch (if staying at Wye Island) and a beverage. Dress warmly and wear shoes good for mucky terrain.

#9760 Sat Mar 27 8:30 am-5 pm
\$20(R)/\$23(N) Ages: 18 + Site: CCNC

Tiny Tot Walk

Roar and More

What sound does a deer make? Do snakes hiss? Read a story about animal sounds and make a lot of noise on a special hike about the music animals make. Note: Due to the popularity of Tiny Tot walks, registration begins Wednesday, Dec. 31.

#9456 Wed Jan 14 10:30 am-11:15 am
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 1 1/2-2 yrs Site: CCNC

Owl Babies

This is the time of year when owls are having their babies. Read a special story about owl babies and learn why mommies always come back. Note: Due to the popularity of Tiny Tot walks, registration begins Wednesday, Jan. 28.

#9457 Wed Feb 11 10:30 am-11:15 am
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 1 1/2-2 yrs Site: CCNC

Its Not Easy Being Green

Celebrate the start of spring with a walk about frogs. Is it easy being green? Through a story, song and hike we will learn some colors of different animals and why they are the colors they are. Note: Due to the popularity of Tiny Tot walks, registration begins Wednesday, Feb. 25.

#9461 Wed Mar 10 10:30 am-11:15 am
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 1 1/2-2 yrs Site: CCNC

Tyke Hikes**Roar and More**

What sound does a deer make? Do snakes hiss? Read a story about animal sounds and make a lot of noise on a special hike about the music animals make.

#9462 Wed Jan 14 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-5 Site: CCNC

Owl Babies

This is the time of year when owls are having their babies. Read a special story about owl babies and learn why mommies always come back.

#9463 Wed Feb 11 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-5 Site: CCNC

It's Not Easy Being Green?

Celebrate the start of spring with a walk about frogs. Is it easy being green? Through a story, song and hike we will learn some colors of different animals and why they are the colors they are.

#9464 Wed Mar 10 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 3-5 Site: CCNC

School's Out**Poop, Poop Everywhere**

Not enough to eat? That's right! Have you ever wondered why dogs eat poop? All sorts of animals eat poop to get more nutrients into their bodies. It sounds pretty gross but it plays a vital role in the lives of animals. We'll learn why animals do this, how they know to do it, and all of the cool things we can learn just by looking a little bit closer at poop. We'll take a hike and make some treats to take home.

#9518 Tue Mar 2 2 pm-3 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 7-11 Site: CCNC

#9519 Thu Mar 18 1 pm-2 pm
\$3(R)/\$4(N) Ages: 3-6 Site: CCNC

Say 'Thanks!'

Send a thank you note to the people in your life that thought about you this holiday season. Come to Croydon Creek and make your own Thank You cards. We'll supply all the materials and hot chocolate.

#9510 Wed Dec 31 11 am-1 pm
\$5(R)/\$6(N) All Ages Site: CCNC

Skunk Cabbage Hike

The first wildflower to bloom in the New Year actually melts the snow around it to attract the creatures that pollinate it. Make a special craft to celebrate the blooms of this special plant and then take a hike to find it. If we are lucky, snow will be on the ground and we can experience what makes this flower so unusual.

#9428 Tue Jan 27 1 pm-2 pm
\$2(R)/\$3(N) Ages: 6 + Site: CCNC

**Watch for:****Spring Break
Nature Adventures****in the upcoming
Spring Recreation Guide**

Monday, April 5 - Friday, April 9

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ages 7-12

**Croydon Creek
Nature Center**